Foodgrains Production Data

*538. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates regarding the quantity of foodgrain production and area under cultivation of different foodgrains are not accurate;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Centre Instituted Scientific Data Gathering System is in existence in the country for the last few years;

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving accurate agricultural data despite using the said system;

(e) the present system used for gathering the agricultural data; and

(f) the future plan of the Government to bring improvement in the existing system?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Estimates of area under cultivation and production of foodgrains in the country are having a high degree of reliability and accuracy.

(c) and (d) There is no such scheme under implementation through the Central Government. As stated in parts (a) & (b) of answer above, the agricultural data carries a high degree of accuracy.

(e) Under the present system, statistics of area under crops is collected through complete enumeration in all the States except Orissa, Kerala and West Bengal which are non-land record states. In these three States, statistics of area are collected through Sample Surveys. The yield statistics are obtained by organising crop cutting experiments through a multi-stage startified random sampling design. The production estimates are derived as a product of area and yield estimates. Under the Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS), there is a provision of advance enumeration of 20 percent of the area to provide early estimates of area statistics. Under the Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS), there is a provision of supervision over the work of area enumeration by the revenue agency in about ten thousand villages in the country; and over crop cutting experiments by the Centre and State on matching basis on about 30,000 crop cutting experiments every year.

(f) Under the schemes for improvement of agricultural statistics, various programmes are likely to be initiated to improve the accuracy and reliability of crop production estimates. These include:

(i) Extension of organisation of crop cutting experiments in the areas/crops which are not presently covered;

(ii) Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agriculture Statistics (EARAS) in North-Eastern States where no system at present exists; and

(iii) Use of statellite based remote sensing technique for crop area and production estimates to build pre-harvest estimates for all crops and in all the States.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms

*539. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the type and number of illegal country-made/ smuggled foreign arms seized during the last three years till date, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the origin of these illegal arms;

(c) the steps taken to check the entry of the illegal foreign arms;

(d) the total number of persons arrested so far during the said period State-wise/UT-wise; and

(e) the action being taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government is alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps in this regard. State Governments have been asked to appoint nodal officers for coordinating all actions for carrying out reinforced surveillance. Other steps include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and a close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

(d) and (e) The information is being obtained from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Pulses

*540. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of pulses in the country leading to abnormal rise in their prices;

(b) if so, the extent of shortage in various varieties of pulses;

(c) the reasons for the shortage;

(d) the amount of Central assistance provided under various schemes to increase the production of pulses to each State particularly to Orissa during 1995-96 and 1996-97, and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the shortage of pulses in the country and to arrest increase in the prices of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) and (b) As compared to estimated demand of 17 million tonnes (production target fixed by Planning Commission for 1996-97), the estimated production of pulses during 1995-96 is 15 million tonnes. Thus, there is a gap of about 2 million tonnes of pulses. To meet the shortage, the country has been importing pulses to the extent of about 4-6 lakh MTs. In general, there has been short supply of pulses like arhar, moong, masur and urad. The assessment of variety-wise requirement is not monitored. The average wholesale price index of pulses has increased by about 8% during 1995 as compared to 1994.

(c) Pulses cultivation is less remunerative as compared to cereals like rice and wheat. About 90% of area of pulses is rainfed. The pulses crops are risky and susceptible to insect pests and diseases. Besides, there has not been any major genetic breakthrough in pulses development.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) In order to increase the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally sponsored National Pulses Development Project is under implementation in 26 States/UTs covering 257 districts. A Central allocation of Rs. 34.8 crore has been made for the year 1996-97. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition frontline and general demonstrations are conducted on the farmers field to propagate the improved production technology. Further, import of pulses is made at 5% of import duty. The Ministry of Agriculture has written to the States for preparing Special Action Plan to increase the production of pulses. So far Tamilnadu and Bihar have responded to this.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	1995-96 Central allocation	1996-97 Central allocation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	106.00	115.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	2.00
3.	Assam	12.00	10.00
4.	Bihar	140.00	131.00
5.	Goa	2.00	1.00
6.	Gujarat	96.00	101.00
7.	Haryana	35.00	35.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	15.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.00	30.00
10.	Karnataka	137.00	150.00
11.	Kerala	11.00	11.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	440.00	550.00
13.	Maharashtra	315.00	370.00
14.	Manipur	6.00	20.00
15.	Meghalaya	6.00	2.00
16.	Nagaland	12.00	12.00
17.	Orissa	115.00	160.00
18.	Punjab	27.00	25.00
19.	Rajasthan	325.00	450.00
20.	Sikkim	10.00	10.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	130.00	150.00
22.	Tripura	7.00	10.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	385.00	506.00
24.	West Bengal	32.00	30.00
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.00	1.00
26.	Delhi	1.00	1.00
	Sprinkler Sets	500.00	—
	TOTAL	2898.00	2898.00